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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament"

Report submitted by the Republic of Korea

As stated in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in the section entitled, "Article VI and preambular paragraphs 8 to 12", in paragraph 15, subparagraph 12, the Conference agreed upon the submission of "Regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of Article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on 'Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament'". In this regard, the Republic of Korea hereby submits its report to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT.

1. The NPT remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Under the current circumstances, in which non-compliance with the NPT and its safeguards systems has undermined the integrity and credibility of the Treaty, and in light of the growing threat of nuclear terrorism in the wake of the September 11 attacks, the need to fortify and preserve the efficacy and integrity of the Treaty has become more crucial than ever.

2. As a non-nuclear weapon State, the Republic of Korea continues to abide by its commitment, pursuant to the Treaty, not to receive the transfer of, receive control over, manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

3. The Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference marked a significant achievement in the field of nuclear disarmament. The guidelines laid out in the Document, particularly the 13 practical steps therein, serve not only as a measuring stick to gauge progress in this field, but also as a roadmap towards achieving the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament.

Since the adoption of the NPT Final Document in 2000, expectations have been ever-increasing for progress in the implementation of disarmament and

03-33111 (E) 240403

transparency measures on the part of the nuclear-weapon States. The five nuclear-weapon States should put their unequivocal commitment to disarmament into action by making systematic and progressive efforts. However, it should also be recognized that nuclear disarmament is a dynamic and complex process that is inextricably connected to the international security environment. Therefore, a gradual step-by-step approach would be a realistic and pragmatic method with which to proceed.

4. The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the achievement of an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The ROK signed the CTBT on 24 September 1996 when it opened for signature and deposited its instrument of ratification on 24 September 1999. The ROK continues to encourage other States to ratify this Treaty, particularly those States whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force at the earliest possible date. In an effort to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty, the ROK has served as a friend of the Chair for the facilitation of the Treaty's early entry into force. Moreover the Foreign Minister of the ROK participated in the Article XIV conference held in New York in September 2002.

It is our firm belief that existing moratoria on nuclear testing by all countries must be maintained, while sustained support is being accorded to the early establishment of the effective monitoring mechanism of the CTBTO. In this regard, the ROK is actively participating in the development of the CTBT's international monitoring system (IMS), particularly through the cooperation of its seismological monitoring station, one of the primary stations in the North-East Asian region.

5. The ROK attaches great importance to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the single multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament agreements. It is regrettable that the CD has yet been unable to break the impasse that has kept it from beginning its substantive work. As a facilitator for the agenda review during the 2002 session, the ROK has actively cooperated with other CD members to contribute to the revitalization of the CD.

As a next logical step towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it is imperative for the CD to immediately begin negotiations on a universal and verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

6. The ROK fully supports the essential role of the IAEA as a competent authority responsible for the verification and assurance of compliance with NPT obligations. The ROK continues to urge those States which have yet to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA to do so. To strengthen the Agency's effectiveness in verifying compliance and detecting actions of non-compliance, it is important to promote the universality of the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement. For its part, the ROK is currently advancing with the internal procedure for the ratification of the Protocol.

7. The ROK welcomes progress on the development and implementation of nuclear-weapon-free zone agreements. At the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, the ROK lent its support to resolutions establishing or consolidating nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Furthermore, the ROK continues to uphold its commitments to the Joint South-North Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula adopted in 1992.

8. The ROK welcomes the Strategic Offense Reductions Treaty concluded by the United States and the Russian Federation in May 2002. The ROK also welcomes the ratification of the Treaty by the U.S. Senate in March 2003. It is expected that such progress in bilateral nuclear reductions agreements will facilitate similar disarmament initiatives in the future.

9. The ROK recognizes that strengthening relevant export control regimes provides a useful tool for the effective prevention of nuclear proliferation. These mechanisms should continue to be strengthened.

From 1 January 2003, the ROK Government introduced the catch-all system into its legal framework and is implementing it accordingly.

10. In December 2002, the ROK hosted a conference on disarmament and non-proliferation in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Disarmament Centre for Asia and the Pacific, which addressed, inter alia, the issue of nuclear non-proliferation within changing international dynamics.